

PLENARY SESSION

DECEMBER 4, 1967—2:05 P.M.

PRESIDENT H. VERNON ENEY,
PRESIDING

THE PRESIDENT: The Sergeant-at-Arms will clear the aisles and close the doors.

The Convention will please come to order.

The invocation today will be offered by the Reverend John P. Gates of the Bethesda First Baptist Church in Bethesda, Maryland, Montgomery County.

Reverend Gates.

REVEREND GATES: Let us pray.

Eternal God, Father of Mankind, whose concern is the fulfillment of all Thy creation, we take a moment to reflect upon our responsibilities, and the choices before us, in this session of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Maryland; to examine what we say and do in the light of the justice and mercy which Thou doth expect of worthy citizens and responsible leaders.

We thank Thee for the heritage of freedom and justice in this State; for those who in the past conscientiously gave of themselves that there may be a better life among us.

We confess, that too often power has created and permitted injustices that have put certain of our citizens at a disadvantage; too often special privilege without real justification has prevailed among us. Indeed, all of us, in every station in life, have been less than we could have been, had we been more faithful to Thee.

Grant now that the great and unusual opportunity presented to us in the calling of this Convention may be used to increase freedom, justice and mercy in the land; that with renewed thought, discipline and mutual trust, a more worthy Commonwealth may emerge, under Thee.

Grant especially that all political, economic and spiritual power, may be used in this session for the common good; that an example be set for all our citizens, young and old, as to what responsible government means in our time.

May each person gathered here today, in whatever capacity, be given wisdom that is born of looking to Thee for guidance; that all decisions may be grounded in the good judgment that seeks to benefit all

people within this State, and nation and beyond, throughout the world. Help all of us, in every situation in life, to rise above that natural concern of self-interest which so easily degenerates into unbridled selfishness and lack of concern for others; to live and act according to Thy Will, oh God, who looks at life as a whole, and whose passion and concern is the good of all thy creatures, Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Roll call.

(The roll was called.)

THE PRESIDENT: Has every delegate answered roll call?

The Clerk will record the roll call.

There being a quorum present, the Convention is in session.

The Chair recognizes Chairman Powers, Chairman of the Committee on Calendar and Agenda.

DELEGATE POWERS: Mr. Chairman, I move adoption of Debate Schedule 9, which covers debate on Committee Recommendation Number SF-2.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there a second?

All in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it and it is so ordered. Debate Schedule 9 is adopted.

Delegate Powers.

DELEGATE POWERS: I move the adoption of the debates calendar.

(The motion was seconded.)

THE PRESIDENT: All in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The motion is carried and the calendar is adopted.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Beachley.

DELEGATE BEACHLEY: Mr. President, I would like to announce that we have 72 students from Hagerstown High School. They are seated on the balcony to the rear of the Delegate chamber. Among the 72 is Mr. John Grumbacher, the son of our distinguished delegate, Richard Grumbacher.

The students are accompanied by their teachers, Miss Vicky Westfal, an English Teacher, Mr. Robert Lochbaum, who is the guidance Counsellor, and Mr. Tyler Peter, a teacher of contemporary challenge. Mr. Peter is the son of the former state Senator, Mr. Robert Peter, who was from Montgomery County.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. We are delighted to have them with us.